

LAWRENCE
College (Public Speaking) 1917

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Public Speaking at Lawrence College

Lawrence College offers exceptional advantages to students desiring work in Public Speaking. The College appreciates the value of the right kind of training in Public Speaking, and because of this has made very liberal provision for those interested in this subject. The Public Speaking department at Lawrence is on the same basis as the other college departments. Courses are offered covering almost every phase of the subject. Students may major or minor in Public Speaking as they major or minor in English, Science or Language, an opportunity which is offered in several of the leading universities, but in very few colleges the size of Lawrence.

Eight different courses are offered. These naturally fall into two groups, those courses which are fundamental, and those which are more advanced. In the first group are two fundamental courses,

- 1st. Extempore Speaking and Oral English.
- 2nd. Fundamentals of Public Speaking.

The first course deals with the essentials of effective speaking with the emphasis on the purpose, form and structure of the speech. The student is led to see that no speech can be effective which does not have a definite end in view with a definite audience, nor can it ignore the

laws governing the action of the mind. The second course deals with the fundamentals of delivery. Proper coordination of mind, voice and body is sought, and suitable training is given to accomplish this desired end. The other courses are more advanced and success in them depends largely on a mastery of these first two courses. They are both fundamental to success either in Debate, Oratory or Dramatics. Beginning and advanced courses are given in all three of the above subjects, and a course in Methods of Teaching Public Speaking is soon to be added. When the student has mastered both the fundamental and the advanced courses offered, he is prepared not only to speak effectively, but to teach Public Speaking as well.

But the number and kind of courses offered means nothing unless the method of teaching is adequate. No subject has suffered more from poor teaching than has Public Speaking. The work in Public Speaking is both scientific and artistic. It is scientific when it is limited to the discovery and formulation of the fundamental laws governing effective discourse, but it is artistic when we consider it from the standpoint of creative oral speech. To over emphasize the scientific attitude during the creative act, to carry it over into the art realm, to center the attention on technical rules which govern the exact expression of every thought, as is so often done, is fatal. The Public Speaking department at Lawrence insists on a scientific basis for all its work, but it also insists that the student be left free to express his own convictions unhampered by rules of emphasis or other distracting, external elements. It believes that the students should be freed from those restraints, constrictions and mannerisms which prevent the fullest expression of thought and feeling, but **its chief concern** is that the student **should have some positive convictions**, some definite thoughts

and feelings to convey. With the emphasis on this vital fundamental element, affectation and unnaturalness in speaking is avoided.

The Classroom work is only one phase of the work in Public Speaking at Lawrence. Splendid opportunities for development are offered in the class, inter-class and inter-collegiate forensic contests. These contests begin with the class tryouts in Oratory which are for the purpose of selecting two representatives from each of the three upper classes, to take part in the inter-class oratorical contest, the greatest home event in oratory of the year. There is a second oratorical tryout open to all students for the purpose of selecting a representative for the state Prohibition oratorical contest, and a similar one to select a representative for the state Peace contest. A Freshman oratorical contest is also held during commencement week. The three state contests in the three inter-collegiate associations furnish the climax for the oratorical work. The tryout debates are also open to the students of all classes and from two to four teams are chosen to represent the college in debate. At least five inter-collegiate debates are held each year with the colleges of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan, and a Freshman-Sophomore Cup debate has now become an annual affair. The President's Prize Speaking Contest and the presentation of from two to three plays by the Drama Class comprise another phase of the Public Speaking work. Those who do not make the debate teams, or do not take part in the oratorical or prize speaking contests, may develop their powers by joining the Phoenix Forum, the debating society. All of the contest work is under the supervision of the Department of Public Speaking and those students taking part in intercollegiate Oratory and Debate receive college credit for their work. With such a variety of forensic contests, students are given

almost unlimited opportunities to develop their forensic powers.

The rewards in prizes for successful forensic work at Lawrence are very generous. In Oratory the Wettengel prize of \$50 is awarded to the winner of first place in the Inter-class contest, and the Forensic Board prize of \$30 is awarded to the winner of second place. In the Prohibition tryout the Buchanan prize of \$25 is awarded to the winner of first place, and in the Freshman oratorical contest the College prizes of \$5 and \$10 are offered. Gold Forensic "Ls" are awarded to successful debaters. Men who have been members of three winning debate teams are awarded the distinctive "L", a gold "L" set with a diamond. Two of these were awarded to men graduating in 1916. The highest forensic honor at Lawrence, however, is the distinction of belonging to the National Honorary Forensic Fraternity, Tau Kappa Alpha, a chapter of which was installed at Lawrence in 1912 because of her excellent record in forensics.

With such facilities for the development of effective speaking, it is natural that Lawrence should have an enviable record in inter-collegiate forensic contests. No college in the North West can equal her record. In oratory, in competition with the four leading colleges of the state, she has won one first and five seconds during the past six years. In debate with such colleges as Beloit, Carroll, Ripon, Hamline, Saint Olaf, Albion and Cornell, she has won eighteen and lost but six out of twenty-four debates. Only one unanimous decision has been recorded against her in six years, while she has won twelve unanimous decisions against her opponents. Such results speak for themselves. Any student interested in Public Speaking will find at Lawrence exceptional advantages both in the breadth and scope of the work offered, and in the kind of instruction provided.

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SUGGESTIVE COURSES

FOR THOSE PREPARING
FOR

CHRISTIAN WORK

Lawrence is a college for liberal culture, but within her 256 cultural courses there are about 50 courses in education, psychology, philosophy, social science, Bible, religion and allied fields, that are especially valuable to those who are preparing for educational directorship in strong churches, social service, Christian Association secretaryship, deaconess work, assistant pastorates, the regular ministry and home or foreign missions. Lawrence will not graduate one who confines all of his studies to the essential branches only, just as she will graduate him who omits them from his schedule. The furnishings for Christian work particularly must be broad as well as deep. Science, language, history, literature and public speaking, must necessarily, bulk much larger than the courses first mentioned in a college education, but it will be apparent from the suggestive outline below that Lawrence offers unusual options bearing directly upon the equipment of the Christian worker, whether he plans to continue his training in professional schools, or may find it necessary or desirable, for a time, to enter his practical field before completing his special training for his life work.

This outline is only suggestive of what Lawrence college would recommend to those planning to become leaders in the best elements of modern endeavor; wide options are possible for those who desire to increase on one line and decrease on another of those suggested. The general rules for required and elective studies are given in the catalogue.

FRESHMEN**1st Semester**

Rhetoric	2
Greek, Latin or German...	4
Modern History	3
Biology	4
Life of Christ.....	2 or 3
—	—

2nd Semester

Rhetoric	2
Greek, Latin or German...	4
History of Reformation...	3
Biology	4
Apostolic Age	2 or 3
—	—
	15

SOPHOMORE**1st Semester**

Rhetoric	2
Greek, Latin or German...	4
Modern History	3
Psychology	2
Comparative Religion	2
Public Speaking	3
—	—
	16

2nd Semester

Rhetoric	2
Greek, Latin or German...	4
Modern History	3
Psychology	2
Comparative Religion	2
Public Speaking	3
—	—
	16

JUNIOR**1st Semester**

Shakespeare ...	3
Ital. Renaissance Art	3
English History	2
Philosophy ...	2
Hebrew History	3
Sociology	3
—	—
	16

2nd Semester

Shakespeare ...	3
Debate	3
English History	2
Philosophy ...	2
Hebrew History	3
Sociology	3
—	—
	16

SENIOR**1st Semester**

Astronomy	3
Geology	4
Missions	3
History of Education.....	3
Ethics	2
Sociological Study of Bible	2
—	—
	17

2nd Semester

Literary Study of Bible...	3
Missions	3
Fundamentals of Christianity	3
History of Education.....	3
Philosophy of Religion.....	2
Social Teaching of Jesus...	2
—	—
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There are 40 other courses in the special most nearly related to the Christian worker's special needs to select from. Some of them could be substituted for some of the more general courses of the above outline if desired. Thruout the above selections it has been remembered that both advancement and service depend alike upon efficient preparation, and therefore that a college course should not endeavor to finish specialists, but should prepare for special professional courses.

Write for particulars to

Lawrence College,
Appleton, Wisconsin